

BEFORE THE OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND ETHICS
FRANK D. REEVES MUNICIPAL BUILDING
2000-14th STREET, N.W., SUITE 420
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20009
(202) 671-0550

IN THE MATTER OF)	DATE: October 31, 2003
)	
James Simmons)	DOCKET NO.: 03F-186
Supervisory Investigator)	
Child and Family Services Agency)	
14310 Bald Hill Court)	
Burtonsville, Maryland 20866)	

ORDER

Statement of the Case

This matter came before the Office of Campaign Finance (hereinafter OCF) Office of General Counsel following a determination by its Public Information Records Management Division, that pursuant to the D.C. Code §1-1106.02 (2001 Edition), James Simmons, Supervisory Investigator, Child and Family Services Agency, failed to timely file, a Financial Disclosure Statement for calendar year 2002, on or before May 15, 2003 as required by D.C. Official Code §1-1106.02 and also failed to file on or before the OCF sanctioned extended filing deadline of June 19, 2003.

By Notice of Hearing, Statement of Violations and Order of Appearance dated August 11, 2003, OCF ordered James Simmons (hereinafter respondent), to appear at a scheduled hearing on August 25, 2003 and show cause why he should not be found in violation of the D.C. Campaign Finance Reform and Conflict of Interest Act of 1974, as amended by D.C. Official Code §§1-1101.01 et seq., and fined accordingly.

Summary of Evidence

OCF alleges that the respondent failed to timely file the statutorily required Financial Disclosure Statement for calendar year 2002, on or before June 19, 2003.

On August 25, 2003, respondent contacted OCF by telephone to inform that he would not be able to appear at the scheduled hearing due to a work-related matter in Baltimore, Maryland. Respondent asserted that he had, in fact, timely filed, and that he would be forwarding proof of filing immediately. On August 27, 2003, OCF received a copy of a completed, notarized but unsigned Financial Disclosure Statement dated May 1, 2003 via facsimile.

Findings of Fact

Having reviewed the allegations and the record herein, I find:

1. Respondent is a member of the Management Supervisory Service (MSS).
2. Respondent was required to file a Financial Disclosure Statement with OCF for calendar year 2002, on or before June 19, 2003.
3. Respondent filed the required Financial Disclosure Statement with OCF on August 27, 2003.
4. Respondent is a first-time required FDS filer.
5. Respondent's explanation for the filing delinquency is credible in that as a first-time filer, he believed he had timely filed the required FDS, notwithstanding the defect in the filing due to the omission of his signature.
6. Respondent is currently not in compliance with the statute.

Conclusions of Law

Based upon the record provided by OCF, I therefore conclude:

1. Respondent violated D.C. Official Code §1-1106.02.
2. The penalty established at D.C. Official Code §1-1103.05(b)(3), and 3DCMR §§3711.2(aa), 3711.2 and 3711.4 for failure to timely file a Financial Disclosure Statement required by D.C. Official Code §1-1106.02 is a fine of \$50.00 per day for each business day subsequent to the due date.
3. In accordance with D.C. Official Code §1-1103.05(b)(3), the respondent may be fined a maximum of \$2,000.00 for failing to timely file a Financial Disclosure Statement.
4. For good cause shown pursuant to 3DCMR §3711.6, the Director of Campaign Finance (Director) may modify, rescind, dismiss or suspend any fine.
5. Respondent has failed to provide a basis for a finding of good cause.

Recommendation

In view of the foregoing and information included in the record, I hereby recommend that the Director impose a fine of \$2,000 in this matter, with the provision that such fine be suspended upon OCF's receipt of a fully executed Financial Disclosure Statement.

Date

Jean Scott Diggs
Hearing Officer

Concurrence

In view of the foregoing, I hereby concur with the Recommendation.

Date

Kathy S. Williams
General Counsel

ORDER OF THE DIRECTOR

IT IS ORDERED that a fine of \$2,000.00 be hereby imposed, with the provision that such fine be suspended upon OCF's receipt of a fully executed Financial Disclosure Statement.

Date

Cecily E. Collier-Montgomery
Director

SERVICE OF ORDER

This is to certify that I have served a true copy of the foregoing Order.

Rose Rice
Legal Assistant

NOTICE

Pursuant to 3DCMR §3711.5 (1999), any fine imposed by the Director shall become effective on the 16th day following the issuance of a decision and order, if the respondent does not request an appeal of this matter. If applicable, within 10 days of the effective date of this order, please make a check or money order payable to the D.C. Treasurer, c/o Office of Campaign Finance, Suite 420, 2000-14th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.